



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

21 DECEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Covelo – Cartels Moving Illegal Marijuana Growing Operations to Northern California

(U) Lured by America's push toward legalized cannabis, cartels have abandoned many decades-old marijuana farms in Mexico, moving their operations to Northern California where they can blend in seamlessly alongside legitimate grows, said Mike Sena, executive director of Northern California's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task forces. Mendocino County Sheriff Matt Kendall told media that there are as many as 10,000 illegal grows in his jurisdiction, a two-hour drive north of San Francisco. He tries to target the worst 100, which is all his small force can handle in a year.

SOURCE: 19 December 2021, [Louisville Courier Journal](#)

(U) Lodi – Teen Arrested for Alleged School Threat

(U) The Lodi Police Department arrested a teenager on Friday, who authorities said is responsible for posting school threats online. On 16 December, officers responded to a threat that was made to Millswood Middle School on Instagram. At the time, authorities said the threat was not credible. The department said a 13-year-old was booked into the juvenile hall after a thorough investigation. It came as warnings about violence were shared across the country by users of the popular TikTok app. Lodi police believe Thursday's threat was related to the TikTok trend.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [KCRA3](#)

(U) Yuba County – Individuals in Anti-Semitic Social Media Posts May be Students

(U) A Yuba County school is investigating several social media posts by students that have been circulating online. Posted photos show images of people displaying anti-Semitic symbols on their bodies. Comments made on some of those posts accuse the people in the images of being Wheatland High School students. Superintendent Nicole Newman issued a statement that the school is investigating but won't go into detail past that.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [KCRA3](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Arizona – Potential Terrorist with Ties to Yemeni Subjects of Interest Apprehended at US-Mexico Border

(U) Yuma – A “potential terrorist” with links to a number of “Yemeni subjects of interest” was captured in Arizona late last week after illegally crossing the US-Mexico border, US Border Patrol officials announced Monday. The 21-year-old man was apprehended Thursday night entering the US from Mexico through Yuma, Arizona, according to a tweet from Yuma Sector Chief Patrol Agent. He appears to have been wearing a jacket emblazoned with an American flag patch and another that stated, “Central Oneida County Volunteer.” The man is allegedly from Saudi Arabia and “is linked to several Yemeni subjects of interest.”

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [Fox News](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Texas – Authorities Arrest 33 Migrants, Seize Two Firearms

(U) La Joya – US Border Patrol agents from the Rio Grande Valley Sector arrested 33 migrants and seized two firearms in La Joya, a press release reported on Monday. Early on 20 December, agents followed footprints which led to a residence in La Joya where members of the US Border Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety, and the La Joya Police Department found 33 undocumented migrants from Central America and Mexico. At the scene, authorities also discovered two weapons, including an assault rifle. Agents took custody of the firearms and transferred the migrants to the station for processing. The residence appeared to be used regularly as a shelter for migrants.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [Telemundo 40](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Advises Against Travel to Ukraine, Citing Russia Threat

(U) Washington – The State Department advised Americans on Monday to avoid travel to Ukraine because of “increased threats” from Russia amid its military buildup along the country’s border. In its new travel advisory, the department said Americans should be “aware of reports that Russia is planning for significant military action against Ukraine” and that security could deteriorate in the country.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [AP](#)

(U) Kentucky – Bowling Green Man Arrested on Multiple Terrorism Charges

(U) Bowling Green – A federal court in Kentucky unsealed an indictment today charging a dual US-Bosnian citizen with providing material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) a designated foreign terrorist organization. Mirsad Hariz Adem Ramic, 31, of Bowling Green, Kentucky is also charged with conspiring to provide material support to and receiving military type training from ISIS.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Massachusetts – Russian Man Charged in \$82 Million Hacking, Insider Trading Scheme

(U) Boston – One of five Russian nationals who authorities allege made tens-of-millions of dollars in illegal profits by trading shares of companies using information stolen during hacks of US computer networks has been extradited to the US to answer to the charges, federal prosecutors in Boston announced Monday. Vladislav Klyushin, 41, was arrested in Switzerland on 21 March and extradited to the US on 18 December. According to the US Securities and Exchange Commission, which filed parallel fraud charges against the defendants Monday, they made a total of \$82 million through the scheme from 2018 through 2020. The other four suspects remain at large, US authorities said.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [AP](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) France – French Army Kills ISGS Militant Linked to Niger Giraffe Park Attack

(U) Paris – The French army says it has “neutralized” a regional ISIS group leader wanted in connection with the killing of seven aid workers, mostly French citizens, and a leading guide in a Niger giraffe park in August 2020. France’s Defense Ministry said Tuesday that, in cooperation with Nigerien authorities, operatives from France’s anti-insurgent force Operation Barkhane struck Soumana Boura, an Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) leader, in a fatal airstrike. The force located him in a ISGS sanctuary north of the town of Tillaberi, identifying his body following the operation.

SOURCE: 21 December 2021, [AP](#)

UNCLASSIFIED

(U) Japan – Death Toll from Suspected Arson at Japanese Clinic Rises to 25

(U) Osaka – The death toll from a suspected arson attack at a psychiatry clinic in Japan has risen to 25 with the death of a woman believed to be in her 20s, media reported on Tuesday. A 61-year-old man suspected of starting the fire on Friday in the western city of Osaka and a woman who appeared to be in her 30s were in critical condition, Kyodo news agency said. Security camera footage from the clinic showed the fire broke out when the suspect carried two bags of liquid in and set it on fire, an Osaka police official said on Monday.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – Seizures of Meth, Fentanyl Soar Since 2019

(U) Mexico City – Mexican drug cartels are turning to bigger, more productive labs to churn out increasing quantities of synthetic drugs like methamphetamine and fentanyl, according to seizure figures issued Monday by the country's Defense Department. The defense secretary acknowledged there has been a huge shift by Mexican cartels away from naturally grown drugs like opium and marijuana, where seizures and crop eradication has fallen. Seizures of the synthetic opioid fentanyl soared 525% in the first three-years of the current administration compared to the previous three-years. Law enforcement seized 1,232-pounds of fentanyl in 2016-2018 and 7,710-pounds in 2019-2021.

SOURCE: 20 December 2021, [AP](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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